

## CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2002/06/18 : CIA-RDP74B00447R000100010012-8

25X1A ORIG: JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM  
 UNIT: DD/SA  
 EXT:   
 DATE: 2 MARCH 1966

L12 SECRET

ROUTING		
	1	2
1	DD/SA	19
2	DD/SA	10
3	DD/SA	11
4	DD/SA	12
5	DO	13
6	DD/SAC	14
7		15
8	DD/PA	16

  

PRIORITY	DEFERRED	INITIALS	
		PRIOR	ROUTINE
		W	

TO:   
 FROM: DIRECTOR  
 CONF:   
 INFO:

342

25X1A

25X1A PRIORITY  INFO  CITE  25X1A  
 07036

25X1A IDEALIST  5662

FOR KELLY JOHNSON FROM GENERAL LEDFORD AND JIM CUNNINGHAM

1. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE GROUNDED ALL AGENCY U-2 ACFT UNDER OUR IMMEDIATE CONTROL FOLLOWING THE UNEXPLAINED LOSS OF ARTICLE 342 LAST FRIDAY. BECAUSE OF THE TYPE OF ACCIDENT IT WAS, AND THE IMPLICATIONS IT CONTAINS FOR OUR OTHER ACFT, AND IN CONSIDERATION OF OUR RAPIDLY DWINDLING ASSETS, WE SEE NO OTHER IMMEDIATE COURSE THAN TO REMAIN GROUNDED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MAJORITY OF THE WRECKAGE IS LOCATED AND EXAMINED.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE DIRECTED A THOROUGH GOING EXAMINATION OF THE ACFT AND SHOP RECORDS ON 342 WITHIN LOCKHEED TO SEE IF ANY CONCLUSIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE EARLIER STRUCTURAL DAMAGE CAN BE DRAWN. WE ARE MOST ANXIOUS THAT YOU PROSECUTE THIS PART OF THE INVESTIGATION AND THE DIAGNOSTIC ASPECTS OF THE ROOT DIFFICULTY WITH THE GREATEST VIGOR IN COMPANY WITH

SECRET

RELEASING OFFICER

GROUP 1  
 Excluded from automatic  
 downgrading and  
 declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 2002/06/18 : CIA-RDP74B00447R000100010012-8 Copy No. 3

ORIG  
UNIT  
EXT  
DATE:

Approved For Release

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

SECRET

ROUTINE		PRIORITY	
1		2	3
4		5	6
7		8	9
10		11	12
13		14	15
16			
PRIORITY CODE	DEFERRED	PRIORITY	INITIALS
	ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	INITIALS

PAGE 2

07036

TO INFO CITE

25X1A REP. [REDACTED] WHO IS THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER FOR THE ACCIDENT. WE SHALL BE LOOKING TO LOCKHEED TO COME UP WITH FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE CORRECTIVE MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN EITHER IN THE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE CYCLES OR IN THE FLIGHT REGIME TO PERMIT US TO RESUME OPERATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IT SEEMS QUITE LIKELY THAT POLITICAL PRESSURE MAY DEVELOP IN OUR DIRECTION TO RESUME OPERATIONS IN VIEW OF THE LONG PERIOD OF INACTIVITY PRECEEDING THE LOSS OF 342. WE INTEND TO HOLD THE LINE ON REMAINING GROUNDED, PENDING YOUR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO OUR NEXT COURSE OF ACTION. WE CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER LOSS FOR ANY REASON WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE EXPLANATION OF THE STRUCTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF 342. ANYTHING YOU NEED FROM US IN THE WAY OF SUPPORT TO PROSECUTE THIS PART OF THE DIAGNOSIS

25X1A

25X1A US IN THE WAY OF SUPPORT TO PROSECUTE THIS PART OF THE DIAGNOSIS

R REQUEST.

**END OF MESSAGE  
COORDINATING OFFICERS**

**JOSEPH A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.**

DD/SAC

**RELEASING OFFICER**

SECRET

**GROUP 3**  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

**AUTHENTICATING OFFICER**

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